

Minutes of SEQ RAC Meeting – 24 February, 2009

JBPRS, Kingaroy

meeting commenced at 9:30am

1. Chairman's Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members and guests.

2. Attendance

P. Enkelmann (Chairman), C. Clark, J. Cross, N. Jorgensen, J. Kingston, W. Learmont, T. Rook,
I. Crosthwaite, P. Harden, A. Cruickshank
Nominees: E. Colson (QDPI), A. Sanderson (GRDC),
Guests: S. Fekybelu (QDPI), J. Huggins (QDPI)
Co-ordinator: N. Jensen

3. Apologies

R. Coe, G. Mills, G. Fitt, D. George

4. Confirmation of Agenda

Confirmed

5. Confirmation of Minutes (1 August, 2008)

Confirmed

6. Business from Minutes

6.1. Northern Region RAC Coordination Arrangements for 2008-11

Co-ordinator's report received.

6.2. Letter to / from GRDC regarding Ground Cover and Technical updates

Correspondence noted.

6.3. Discussion paper on GRDC funding of grain industry leadership training

Item deferred - G. Mills not available to attend meeting.

6.4. NVT Review Outcomes

Noted that the NVT Review report had not been released but that J. Juttner (GRDC) had prepared some notes for the RACs (tabled).

The meeting noted that the notes provided by J. Juttner did not answer the issues raised in the RAC submission to the Review.

6.5. Industry Sorghum Midge Rating Scheme

Co-ordinator's report received.

The meeting noted that it was important to keep this testing independent.

6.6. NR RAC Chair's Meeting with NP GRDC held 25th August 08 at PBI Narrabri NSW

Chairman's report received.

Noted that the SEQ RAC was the only advocate for pulses, minor crops.

6.7. Review of QDPIF Grains Research Facilities (Fresh Approach)

Dr Colson reported to the meeting, including comments about the National RD&E Framework.

7. Correspondence and Business

7.1. QDPIF Field Crops Performance Report 2007-08

Report noted.

7.2. Extension of RAC membership term to September 09

Noted

7.3. Letter of appreciation to John Obst

- 7.4. Letter of condolence to John O'Shannese's widow.
- 7.5. Pesticides for minor uses
Document tabled.
- 7.6. Wheat Variety Guide (WVG)
Correspondence to/from QDPI noted.
- 7.7. QDPI&F wheat variety testing capacity
Correspondence to/from QDPI noted.
- 7.8. Barley Breeding Australia Review and barley leaf rust in 2009.
Review process noted. T. Rook and P. Enkelmann agreed to participate in a Northern Region BBA Review consultative group.
Comments from Dr G. Platz about barley leaf rust noted.

8. RAC members' reports

RAC members reported to the meeting. Comments included:

- high incidence of heliothis in sorghum. Response to the virus treatment was slow: grub size at time of treatment was critical to effectiveness.
- input costs were very high, therefore a high yield potential in varieties was required
- stripe rust had been sprayed in significant wheat crops – an expense that is unnecessary considering that breeding can provide a solution to rust.
- net blotch had been present in peanuts; leaf diseases continue to be a problem in peanuts.
- future success of soybeans will depend on the availability of drought resistant varieties and the management of insects.
- soybean acreage (in rotation with sugar cane) had increased significantly this year

9. Guest Speakers

Dr S. Fekybelu reported on the QDPI dryland maize breeding program.

Mr J. Huggins reported on grains BMP.

10. Review of priority issues for the South East Queensland Region

The SEQ priority issues were reviewed and updated.

Regarding Priority issue #24, see what level of involvement Education Queensland and GRDC have had in providing information packs to schools.

11. RAC nominees' reports

Dr Colson reported to the meeting and noted that a comprehensive written report would be provided by QDPI to the RACs.

Mr Sanderson reported to the meeting. He invited the SEQ RAC members to meet the Northern Panel for dinner on Monday 30 March in Kingaroy.

12. Next meeting

Date: 4 August, 2009 (to be confirmed)

Venue: Kingaroy

Speakers: TBD. Doug George (?), Andrew McDonald (BGA); Julie Ferguson or Gordon Cummings (pulse development forum)

13. Closure

Meeting closed at 4:05pm

14. Research Station Tour

Kingaroy Research Station staff conducted a tour highlighting some of their work in peanut breeding, entomology and agronomy/farming systems.